

A production agriculture and hog farmer from my home State of Iowa, Ms. Jorgensen moved to Washington in 1997 to serve on the Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed, three-member board of the Farm Credit Administration, FCA. FCA is an independent U.S. Government agency responsible for regulating and examining the entities of the Farm Credit System. The Farm Credit System is a nationwide financial cooperative that lends to agriculture and rural America.

Members of the FCA board also serve as Directors for the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, FCSIC, to which Ms. Jorgensen was elected as the first woman chair in January 2000. FCSIC is an independent U.S. Government corporation responsible for ensuring the timely payment of principal and interest on insured notes, bonds, debentures, and other obligations issued on behalf of Farm Credit System banks. Ms. Jorgensen's leadership was instrumental in keeping the insurance fund at or near the statutory 2 percent capitalization level.

During Ms. Jorgensen's 5-year tenure at the Farm Credit Administration, many changes took place in the Farm Credit System influenced by the FCA board. Through the board approval of restructuring applications, the number of Farm Credit System associations consolidated from 250 to 103, thus creating greater efficiencies, better customer service, and cost savings to associations. The board also amended participation regulations allowing for the purchase of a 100-percent interest in participations and eliminating the territorial consent requirement. With these and other changes, the Farm Credit System today is well capitalized and profitable with a high asset quality.

Prior to her appointment to the FCA board, she served on a number of governing boards for the State of Iowa, including 6 years as a member of the Board of Regents. The Board of Regents is responsible for the State's three universities, including the University of Iowa Hospital, a world-renowned teaching hospital, and its affiliated clinics. She also served on the board of the Iowa Department of Economic Development and chaired the Iowa Rural Development Council. Among many other boards and committees, she has also served on the Agriculture Product Advisory Board, the Interstate Agricultural Grain Marketing Commission, the National Pork Producers Council Environmental Committee, the European Trade Task Force Legislative Study Committee; the Iowa Public Broadcasting Network Board of Directors and Foundation Board.

She was named to the Farm Foundation's Bennett Agricultural Round Table in June 2000. This provides a forum for discussion and dialogue among agricultural, agribusiness, government, academic, and interest group leaders on issues of importance to agri-

culture and rural America. Alpha Zeta, the national honorary agricultural fraternity, named her to its Centennial Honor Roll in 1997. She has also been inducted into the Iowa Volunteer Hall of Fame, and along with her husband, has previously been recognized by Farm Futures magazine as owner of one of the Top 10 Best Managed Farms.

I thank her for her numerous contributions to our farmers as well as rural America, and I extend my very best wishes for her continued success.●

TRIBUTE TO LT. COL. THOMAS J. STAPLETON

● Mr. BOND. Mr. President, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay special tribute to an outstanding soldier who has distinguished himself in his service to the United States Senate and the Nation as a United States Army Fellow. Lt. Col. Thomas Stapleton's fellowship officially ends upon the adjournment of this session and before he leaves, I wish to extend my most sincere thanks and appreciation for his exemplary service to myself, the citizens of Missouri and our great nation.

Lt. Col. Stapleton is a seasoned military leader with over 17 years of tactical, budget and acquisition experience that have been a tremendous contribution to my office. Lt. Colonel Stapleton served his nation in Operation Just Cause and Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm from 1989-1991. He is a Distinguished Military Graduate from Canisius College, Buffalo, New York, holds a Master of Business Administration from Rochester Institute of Technology and attended Georgetown University's Government Affairs Institute.

Throughout his career, Lt. Colonel Stapleton's level of commitment and service have been evident in his various decorations and awards including the Bronze Star which he was awarded for exceptional service in Operation Desert Storm. Lt. Colonel Stapleton has proven his abilities and has consistently performed above and beyond the call of duty.

During his tour as a military fellow, Tom fulfilled crucial functions and carried out critical assignments within my office. His budgetary experience as an Army comptroller served him well in resolving numerous defense appropriations issues. His tactical experience was an invaluable resource as evidenced by the many dependable information briefs I received after the devastating attacks of 9-11. These attributes further served Tom as he traveled the roads of Missouri on my behalf meeting with veterans, military service-members and constituents at various installations, veteran's facilities and town hall meetings. In addition, I relied heavily on Lt. Colonel Stapleton's strong volley and solid serve in crushing two of my distinguished colleagues, Senator STEVENS and Senator WARNER, on the tennis court.

Lt. Colonel Stapleton is not just a soldier but a devoted husband and committed father of three children. Whether he was coaching soccer with his son, enjoying family vacations or throwing a birthday party for his children, Tom consistently made time for his family throughout his very demanding tour as a fellow. Anyone familiar with Lt. Colonel Stapleton's numerous achievements, awards and much deserved commendations knows that Tom's top priority is to be a dedicated family man. Tom embodies the values that we as Americans all hold dear. His commitment to family and country set the standard for a professional soldier and solid role model.

The Military Congressional Fellows programs affords members of Congress with a critical military perspective coupled with invaluable service and professionalism. The tremendous reputation and success of this program are a direct reflection of Fellows like Lt. Colonel Stapleton. Tom has distinguished himself as a member of my staff and my defense team. On behalf of the citizens of Missouri and a grateful Nation, we wish Lt. Col. Thomas Stapleton, his wife Anne, and three children Toni, Carly and Jack the best as he continues his distinguished career.●

TRIBUTE TO NANCY KRAFT

● Mr. BAUCUS. Mr. President, I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to a dedicated member of the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, FWP, as she concludes 32 years of service to her State and Nation. We are proud that this native Montanan spent her entire working life dedicated to serving Montana's State's citizens and visitors.

Mrs. Nancy Kraft deserves this honor. We owe her our gratitude for her contributions to the conservation of Montana's wildlife and natural resources, as well as her efforts to preserve the outdoor heritage that makes the Treasure State's way of life unique.

Nancy's personal and professional career accomplishments truly reflect the character of life under the big sky. Her loyal service over three decades—spent in our capital city of Helena—are a testament to all those who value wildlife and open spaces. I would like to take a moment to reflect upon Nancy's career as she embarks on a new phase of life beyond government service.

Born in Helena, Nancy attended primary school locally and began work at the then Department of Fish and Game in 1970 as a temporary employee in the General Licensing section handling delinquent accounts. Skilled in pursuing overdue collections she soon designed a system that over the years returned more than \$300,000 to the people of Montana.

Nancy progressed through several positions of increasing responsibility, while continuing to make sure licensing operations were closely related to